GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:717
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2005
FOREIGN PARTNERSHIP IN CHANNELS
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign partnership is increasing in channels being telecast in India;

(b) if so, the number of channels with foreign partnership;

(c) whether the increasing foreign partnership in these channels is causing any threat to the security of the country; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING & CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a), (b), (c), & (d) : As per existing guidelines, a company with 100% foreign equity is eligible to seek permission to uplink a Non-News & Current Affairs Channel, whereas in the case of News Channels, Foreign Direct Investment is allowed only up to 26% of the Paid Up equity. Sixty Eight (68) TV channels belonging to seventeen (17) Indian Companies having foreign equity have been granted uplinking permission so far. These channels are permitted uplinking from India after fulfillment of eligibility criteria, security clearance through Ministry of Home Affairs and compliance with various terms & conditions prescribed under the guidelines. The channels are also required to keep a record of materials uplinked, for a period of 90 days and provide the necessary monitoring facility for monitoring of programmes.